

Exhibit No.

15

Date

4-10-07 #1

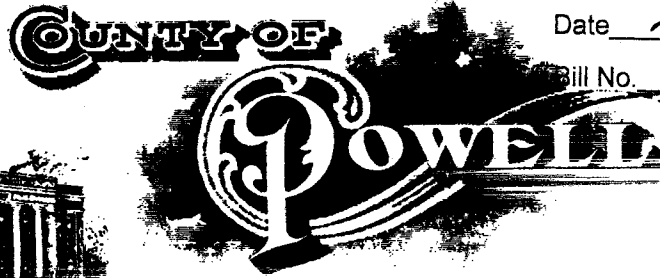
Bill No.

HB 574



1901-2001

A Century of Service

409 Missouri Avenue  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

March 16, 2007

The Honorable Cindy Hiner  
Representative House District #85  
State Capitol  
Helena MT 59624

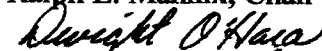
Dear Representative Hiner,

The Board of Commissioners of Powell County would like to take this opportunity to offer our support of HB 574. Funding made available to communities who have lost their cultural center would assist in the planning and rebuilding of the center which has been so valuable to the culture and life blood of the community.

Powell County recently lost the Rialto Theater which had served the local community for decades as an cultural center, a facility large enough for film presentations, live theater or youth talent shows; for conventions, guest lecturers and local historians; for concerts featuring guest performers or local musicians and vocalists; and until the loss had provided a venue for graduation ceremonies. Outside financial assistance is essential if we are to recreate a center that can serve our citizens in such a vital area.

Thank you for your sponsorship. Again, we fully support HB 574. If we can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

  
Ralph E. Mannix, Chair  
Dwight O'Hara  
Gail Jones

**Probable Cost Estimate – Rialto Community Theater**

This scope of work includes the following items. The costs indicated below include limited demolition, preparation, and installation of items. The focus of this work is the protection of, and improvements to the historic building, seismic and life safety conditions, and significant environmental conditions affecting storage condition in the main floor archives.

Architectural work including limited demolition, preparation and finishes including paint, wall coverings, decorative plaster and metal grilles, wainscoting and floor finishes, theater seating for 740 occupants, ADA/ANSI accessible restrooms, doors and hardware, windows, wall and ceiling framing and finishes, building insulation and new membrane and tile roof finish, flashing and drainage, rehabilitation of dressing rooms, existing and restrooms, automatic fire sprinkler system and repair of brickwork and terracotta storefront: **\$1,160,000.00**

Structural work including floor and roof structure, seismic sheer walls and connections between floor structure and perimeter brick walls, building additions, structure for ramps, mezzanine and balcony floor levels: **\$374,000.00**

Electrical work including electrical service and distribution, historic and specialty lighting, lighting controls, sub-panel, and emergency lighting, power, alarms and communication: **\$425,000.00**

New 4-inch water line service to building and associated excavation and repair for fire sprinkler system: **\$44,000.00**

Fire department standpipe, connection, and automatic fire sprinkler system protection to all areas: **\$94,000.00**

Mechanical including removal and reinstallation of new boiler and piping distribution, mechanical ventilation, and plumbing work: **\$264,000.00**

Contingency: **\$236,000.00**

Overhead & Profit: **\$389,600.00**

Bonds & Insurance: **\$90,000.00**

**Subtotal Limited Scope Rehabilitation \$3,076,600.00**

Professional Fees: **\$307,600.00**

---

**TOTAL \$3,384,200.00**

---



*"Investing In Our Communities"*

April 9, 2007

**TO: Madam Chairman Schmidt and Finance and Claims Committee Members**

**RE: HB 574 – Deer Lodge Rialto Theater**

Dear Ms. Schmidt and Finance and Claims Committee Members,

Please accept this letter as support for House Bill 574 regarding the financial support for the rebuilding of the Rialto Theater in Deer Lodge. As you may be aware, the interior of the Rialto Theater was destroyed by fire in November, 2006. This event took place after the community of Deer Lodge purchased and refurbished the theater over an eleven year period to the tune of @\$350,000.00. The estimate to rebuild the theater is over \$3,000,000 and with the support from HB 574, Deer Lodge will begin to rebuild the cultural center of our community.

As Chairman of the annual Deer Lodge Rotary Talent Show(47 years), I can attest that the Rialto Theater is the true center of this community. The Rialto is used for both grade school and high school concerts and plays, community theater plays, civic events such as the Rotary Talent Show as well as movies. We have even held memorial services in the theater. It truly is a Civic Center to the community of Deer Lodge.

As of this date, the theater has been cleared of all debris and the work to stabilize the walls and install a new roof system has begun. This community had put together the original \$350,000 to purchase and restore the theater and currently has @\$400,000.00 to begin the restoration again. Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan had contributed over \$33,000.00 towards the original purchase/restoration and we, along with the rest of this community will again be counted on to financially support the rebuilding of the theater.

Thank you again for your consideration with this bill.

Mike Richards  
Vice President

401 Milwaukee Avenue • P.O. Box 191 • Deer Lodge, MT 59722  
Telephone 406 • 846 • 2202 • Fax 406 • 846 • 3803  
[www.pioneerfed.com](http://www.pioneerfed.com)

*Equal Housing Lender • Member FDIC*

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

INTERNET:  
max@baucus.senate.gov  
<http://www.senate.gov/~baucus>

January 16, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to have the opportunity to express my strong support to the Rialto Theatre as they apply for funding. This past November, the residents of Deer Lodge experienced a tragic loss, when the historic Rialto Theatre burned down.

The Rialto Theatre has been a landmark in Deer Lodge for 85 years. Built in 1921, its historical and aesthetic value is equal to its functional value as a community center. The magnificent theatre's original style and design was maintained for decades of enjoyment by the residents of Deer Lodge.

Now the community has lost this remarkable theatre that stood as a tribute to the history of Deer Lodge and a celebration of the present while fully functioning as a modern performing arts center and movie screening theatre. The next step for this community is to rebuild what they have lost. As demonstrated by their past coordination, commitment and dedication to the Rialto Theatre, the community of Deer Lodge is certainly a deserving group of people who will work together to bring back their beloved theatre.

Again, this project carries with it my full support, and I hope you will consider their application favorably. Please feel free to contact my office if I can provide any additional information. I also would greatly appreciate if you kept my office informed about the status of this request.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



MSB/jj